ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICS 72, 168–169 (1988)

Book Reviews

M. R. LEADBETTER, G. LINDGREN, AND ROTZÉN, *Extremes, and Related Properties of Random Sequences and Processes*, Springer, 1983, 336 pp.

The distribution of the maxima of n independent—or even dependent—random variables is the kind of question that 50 years ago would have been dismissed as worthy of a brilliant note, or a footnote if the author were Paul Lévy. Instead, it has blossomed into one of the fascinating chapters of probability theory, a testing ground of the deepest and most ingenious techniques of our day. This book maintains the high standards of exposition that are *de rigeur* in probability (unlike other branches of mathematics, like topology, where it is wrongly believed that having the results available in some illegible research paper is enough. Mathematicians should realize that a theory that is not properly expounded is like a theorem whose proof is not yet written down.)

G. BURDE AND H. ZIESCHANG, *Knots*, de Gruyter, 1985, 309 pp.

Are knots just a chapter of combinatorial group theory, or are they *selbsständig* geometric objects? Specialists of the theory—and there are few—seem to oscillate between these two extremes. Here we have two authors who have bravely decided that pictures come first, and rigorous proof later, though no less indispensable. What a relief!

D. KUEKER, E. G. K. LÓPEZ-ESCOBAR, AND C. H. SMITH, *Mathematical Logic and Theoretical Computer Science*, Dekker, 1987, 383 pp.

Nowadays, if one wants to find out what is going on in logic, one is well advised to pick up some survey in a theoretical computer science series. What do we find in this one? No less than λ-calculus, the Zariski topos, and profinite groups. Shall we switch the applied mathematicians with the pure mathematicians?

I. GOHBERG, P. LANCASTER, AND L. RODMAN, *Invariant Subspaces of Matrices with Applications*, Wiley, 1986, 692 pp.

The authors develop a fruitful and never-thought-of idea: they take concepts of the theory of operators in Hilbert space and develop them on an elementary level in finite-dimensional vector spaces. No stone is left unturned in seven hundred-odd pages. We hope they will follow with a parallel book for operators in Hilbert space.

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